



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 24, 2025
3:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.C.R 231/S.R. 207
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO INSTALL AND
UTILIZE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AT EACH STATE AIRPORT AND HARBOR TO
SCAN FOR ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
& Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of S.C.R. 231/S.R. 207, which requests the Department to scan for and detect illegal fireworks at the State's airports and harbors.

However, DOT does not have the authority or capability to perform the inspections as described in the resolution. For outbound passenger screening, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) are responsible for screening hand-carried and checked luggage. For inbound travel, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) screens arriving passengers, and passenger aircraft cargo is certified by the respective airlines. The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) has authority over the inspection of incoming passengers and baggage at airports.

Expanding current screening programs to detect illegal fireworks—whether at airports, cargo operations, or harbors—would likely require new statutory authority, interagency coordination, and significant funding and staffing resources for the agencies with enforcement and inspection powers.

Should the State pursue such efforts, DOT is committed to supporting the lead enforcement agencies and will consult with the Department of Law Enforcement, the Illegal Fireworks Task Force, and key operational partners including airlines, cargo carriers, and harbor users to ensure any proposed solutions are feasible and effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Honolulu, Hawaii

Testimony in Support of SCR231/SR207 - Electronic Equipment at each state airport and harbor to scan for illegal fireworks.

To: Chairs Brandon J.C. Elefante and Chris Lee, Vice Chairs Glenn Wakai and Lorraine R. Inouye, and Members of the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 **Time:** 3:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

From: O'ahu Filipino Community Council

Aloha Chairs Elefante and Lee, Vice Chairs Wakai and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

The O'ahu Filipino Council submits testimony in strong support of SCR231/SR207, which requests the Department of Transportation to install and utilize electronic equipment at each state airport and harbor to scan for illegal fireworks.

Illegal fireworks have long posed significant safety, environmental, and community concerns across Hawai'i. Their unregulated use disrupts the peace, endangers lives, and strains our first responders. The implementation of electronic scanning equipment at airports and harbors is an essential step in curbing the importation of these fireworks and protecting our residents and visitors alike.

By investing in technology to detect illegal fireworks at critical entry points, we are taking a proactive approach to address this persistent issue. This measure enhances public safety, mitigates the risk of accidental injuries or fires, and aligns with our shared commitment to preserving the harmony and well-being of our islands.

We commend the efforts of the Department of Transportation and urge the committees to advance SCR231/SR207 to ensure a safer Hawai'i for all. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Melodie Aduja, Chair, Social Action Committee
Director, O'ahu Filipino Community Council

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Comments on SCR231 and SR207
Before the Committees on Transportation and Culture and Arts and
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
March 24, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc., (Matson) has significant concerns with SCR231/SR207 and respectfully offers amendments. These measures request the Department of Transportation to install and utilize electronic equipment at each state airport and harbor to scan for illegal fireworks.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and logistics to timely service our residents and businesses who depend on these goods, vehicles, materials, and fuel on all major islands.

Matson respectfully requests these resolutions be amended to require that the Department of Transportation install and utilize any explosive detection equipment pursuant to this measure at a secure and safe facility **away from the commercial harbors in all circumstances** to allow timely discharge of shipping containers at each of the commercial harbors and avoid unnecessary delays and traffic congestion.

The flow of commerce in Hawaii runs on a just-in-time delivery model. Matson's operations run twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and Honolulu Harbor is at full capacity. Any random inspection that takes place within the already congested commercial harbors on each of the major islands could cause significant delays in offloading and out-gating of cargo and unsafe traffic congestion. As a result, these scans must take place outside of the commercial harbors to avoid disruption of goods transported within the State and interference with the users' respective operations at these harbors.

This measure also fails to address fireworks and explosives that enter the State through other modes of transportation beyond commercial shipping containers. For example, on January 3, 2023, Hawaii News Now reported that an investigation was underway after nearly 100 pounds of illegal aerial fireworks were confiscated from a mailroom at Oahu Community Correctional Center. A corrections officer was suspected of having the boxes mailed to the jail using an inmate's name. All entities involved in moving cargo to the islands via other modes of transportation should be included in any proposed inspection mandate including other mail and packaging carriers. This could include the United States Postal Service, other package delivery companies, recreational boat owners, commercial fishing vessels and the related industry groups.

This measure also fails to take into consideration inspections of private aircraft.

Furthermore, the resolution fails to state specifically that the Department of Transportation shall have jurisdiction over and take possession of any fireworks or explosives found in connection with the cargo scans conducted, or if it will be under the jurisdiction of a law enforcement agency.

If your Committees intends to pass these measures, we request the following amendment to each measure:

Page 1, lines 26 to 31 to read as follows: "BE IT RESPOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of Transportation is requested to install and utilize electronic scanning equipment at each state airport and harbor to scan for illegal fireworks; provided that with respect to harbors, such equipment shall be installed and utilized away from a commercial harbor to ensure minimal disruptions to the flow of commerce."

Thank you for considering our suggested amendments. Additionally, we urge your Committees to ensure it has carefully considered the jurisdictional issues that may arise with private-sector organized labor.

SCR-231

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:43:07 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/24/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

SCR-231

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 7:50:36 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/24/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Akau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill

SCR-231

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:27:24 PM

Testimony for TCA on 3/24/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose, we don't need to become a police state in monitoring other's actions.

This has the ability for further escalate monitoring for nefarious purposes.